



LA ACADEMIA BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**MONTHLY MEETING
NOVEMBER 15, 2023**

OUR MISSION

La Academia Partnership Charter School transforms today's learners into tomorrow's leaders by applying Project Based Learning experiences beyond the classroom and into their communities, while utilizing scholar-centered support to meet the social-emotional needs of all scholars.

OUR VISION

Our scholars will GO BEYOND by demonstrating commitment to their communities, and are recognized by their leadership, collaboration, and innovation.

Voting Members Present: Chris Boyd (officer), Aidalis Lopez (officer), Jessica Gehman, Brandon Wilt, Gloria Nyutu-Blackman, Christina Williams

Voting Members Not Present: Colleen Wagner (officer), James Rovito, Guy Kingree (officer), Angel Rosario, Leonel Silva

Administration and Non-Voting Members Present: Elizabeth Landis, Mark Simms, Jasson Read, Gregory McGough

Minutes Recorder: Steve Rally

AGENDA:

I. Executive Session (Personnel)

II. Call to Order / Roll Call 4:36 by C. Boyd.

III. Approval of October Minutes Motion by A. Lopez; B. Wilt seconded; approved unanimously.

IV. Reports and Action Items

A. Finance Committee

Onmivest gave an overview of various expenses and stated that LAPCS is positive of \$158,000; no ESSER fees recognized yet this year.

B. School Management Landis/Leadership

E.

- Staff Highlight -Ben Closson
 - B. Closson gave an overview of co-teaching at LAPCS and his background via Google Slides Presentation.
 - Comments: M. Simms asked how beneficial UI13's



professional development was to the co-teaching training and B. Closson explained how important it was. C. Boyd asked why he had chosen LAPCS. B. Closson explained why he wanted to work with kids that are in need. L. Landis made a point to express her excitement for the future. J. Read made a comment about how excited scholars are to have him as baseball coach.

- Students of the Month - L. Landis presented the slide about the scholars of the month.
- Thanksgiving Lunch for Scholars and families will take place on 11/16/23.
- Enrollment - Jasson Read-Jean
 - J. Read went over current enrollment numbers and the waitlist.
 - Comments: A. Lopez asked if scholars are counted if they are in the process of being enrolled, but J. Read explained how they have to be accepted. C. Williams asked how scholars are selected and J. Read explained that it is a first come first serve basis. J. Read further explained the process for applying and reapplying to the school.
- Extra Give - Jasson Read-Jean
 - Goal for 2023 is \$15,000
 - A. Lopez explained how the scholars from the winning grade will have an event held at Barnstormers Stadium.
- CEO Report - Mark Simms
 - M. Simms reviewed the Thanksgiving lunch for scholars, staff, and families.
 - L. Landis explained our “Listening Sessions” with staff and M. Simms mentioned the importance of being able to communicate openly and to be “solutions” oriented.
 - M. Simms explained the impact of our new school psychologist and social worker and how important their roles have been to our scholars.
 - M. Simms updated how well college and career is going for our scholars.
 - New relationships by J. Read (Giant and Walmart) - J. Read explained how Giant will sponsor Staff Member of the Month (gift cards and incentives); Walmart, who does not work with other schools, has agreed to provide on-the-job-training to scholars through IU13. L. Landis connected this to the fifth pathway of graduation.

C. Governance Committee

Action Items:

- **Old Business**



- **Policy Approvals**
 - Dual Enrollment Policy
 - Anti-Hazing Policy
 - Employer Issued Cell Phone Policy
 - G. Nyutu-Blackman motioned; A. Lopez seconded; approved unanimously
- **New Business**
 - **Policies for Review**
 - Employee Referral Bonus
 - School Volunteers
 - Suicide Awareness, Prevention, and Response
 - Contracted Services Personal

D. Personnel Committee

C. Boyd

- Action Items:
- Staff Hires/Resignations/Vacancies
 - New Hires
 - Kendra Melendez - Supervisor of Student Services
 - Jillian Smith - Special Education
 - Michael Doupe - 6th Grade STEM
 - Jacobo Alvarez - MS Math
 - Maria Linder-Hess - Building Substitute Teacher
 - Christian Graciano - Paraprofessional
 - Departures
 - Gabriella Wertheim - Supervisor of Student Services
 - Kelly Saylor - Special Education

Comments: M. Simms gave kudos to J. Read for his role in helping to bring back J. Alvarez to LAPCS.

A. Lopez asked about certification for new teachers L. Landis explained the process of emergency certification and how we are pursuing that.

VI. New Business (None)

VII. Public Comments (None)

VIII. Adjournment 5:29 by C. Boyd

Next Meeting: December 20, 2023